

THE NAVAJO NATION



JONATHAN NEZ | **PRESIDENT** MYRON LIZER | **VICE PRESIDENT**

MEMORANDUM

TO: NAVAJO NATION EXECUTIVE BRANCH

FROM:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Nez", written over a horizontal line.

Jonathan Nez, *President*
THE NAVAJO NATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Myron Lizer", written over a horizontal line.

Myron Lizer, *Vice President*
THE NAVAJO NATION

DATE : March 11, 2020

RE: NOTICE OF OFF-RESERVATION TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS DUE TO
COVID-19/CORONAVIRUS

This memorandum serves as official notice of off-reservation travel restrictions for all Executive Branch employees effective immediately due to the growing spread of the COVID-19/novel coronavirus. More restrictive measures may be enacted as the situation develops. The health and well-being of our Navajo people is the top priority for the Nez-Lizer Administration, and this includes all of our Navajo Nation employees. At the time of this memorandum, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 on the Navajo Nation.

All Divisions, Departments, and Programs are directed to restrict and cancel off-reservation travel due the growing concerns over the COVID-19 coronavirus. Employees currently on off-reservation travel are directed to return as soon as possible. In addition to travel restrictions, we strongly recommend the following:

- Attending meetings/events/training through teleconference calls/video
- Staying home or working from home if you have symptoms such as fever, coughing, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing
- Avoiding contact with people with sicknesses/symptoms
- Cleaning/sanitizing your workplaces/office space routinely

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JONATHAN NEZ | PRESIDENT MYRON LIZER | VICE PRESIDENT

If you have shortness of breath or have difficulty breathing, please report to your local physician and/or emergency room hospital. Call ahead to allow the facility to prepare for your arrival.

On February 27, the Office of the President and Vice President established the Navajo Nation COVID-19 Preparedness Team to monitor, plan, prepare, and coordinate precautionary efforts to address COVID-19. It is incumbent upon us, as individuals, to take precautionary measures including washing your hands frequently, staying home when sick, avoiding contact with those who are sick, and limiting travel to reduce the spread of germs and decrease exposure risk.

The COVID-19 Preparedness Team will continue developing preparedness efforts to address the possible exposure of the Navajo Nation to the COVID – 19. Included in this preparedness planning will be monitoring, communication, coordination, health care readiness and preparation, and health care management with regional hospitals and clinics. The Team is also tasked with providing clear and timely information to the Navajo elderly population regarding the coronavirus, in both the English and Navajo languages.

On February 27, the Navajo Department of Health implemented its Emergency Command Operations Center and activated the planning section to coordinate public health preparedness and response planning. The Navajo Nation Division of Emergency Management has plans in place to activate the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The duties and responsibilities of the Navajo Department of Health and Division of Emergency Management may expand as this effort unfolds and new developments occur. We, along with the Preparedness Team, will closely monitor the situation and will update the Navajo Nation travel policy as necessary. Off-reservation travel restrictions shall remain in effect until further notice. We also encourage all Navajo Nation employees to visit the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) website for daily updates: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.